

Budget Office estimates that the President's health care law will still leave 30 million Americans uninsured. At the same time, the law is massively driving up the cost of care for both employers and employees. In fact, 17 of the Nation's largest insurance companies indicate that health insurance premiums will grow an average of 100 percent under this law.

The evidence is overwhelmingly conclusive, Mr. Speaker: ObamaCare is not only unaffordable, but it also fails to address access to care in any meaningful way. In the process, we're damaging everything that is good and effective about the current system. To boot, we're undermining growth and stalling our economic recovery. Effectively, we've thrown the baby out with the bathwater. The fact that the White House used a blog post to announce the employer mandate change reveals just how desperate the administration is to cover up the flaws of this fatally flawed bill. Unfortunately, this is not something the White House was willing to admit until after the midterm election.

CYRUS CYLINDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of a document of great significance, the Cyrus Cylinder, that will be touring the United States for the duration of this year and will be on display in museums across this country. On October 2, the Cyrus Cylinder will be displayed to the public at the Getty Museum in Malibu, California.

In what historians call the "first bill of human rights," the Cyrus Cylinder, out of Persia, remains important, particularly as the Cylinder's inheritors, the people of Iran, continue to suffer under the repressive Islamic Republic in Iran.

Jews, Babylonians, and Greeks left laudatory accounts of Cyrus' actions. The Cyrus Cylinder is widely considered to be not only the first human rights document, but a document to protect other cultures. In the Torah, it is written:

King Cyrus issued a decree concerning the house of God in Jerusalem, let the house be rebuilt. The cost will be paid from the cost of the King.

In what now can be considered a defining moment in history, Cyrus permitted the Jews to take their statues, their ceremonial vessels, and important cultural and religious objects back with them to Jerusalem and rebuild their temple.

Cyrus the Great holds a special position in the history of civilization. His humanitarian values of freedom for all people, respect for culture and religious diversity, and recognition of the fact that it is better to be loved than feared are remarkable attributes for any ruler.

But as Ali Razi, who left Iran in the wake of the Iranian Revolution, shares

with us, for someone who lived 2,600 years ago, such beliefs are truly exceptional. Ali Razi makes a second point about the document's influence on Persian and Greek culture, and on the European Enlightenment. Cyrus' values and ideas for governance have long inspired political thinkers and leaders of men, including the Founding Fathers of this country, who wove these same ideals into the very Constitution of the United States. Thomas Jefferson owned two copies of "Cyropedia," a book of histories by the Greek historian Xenophon that told the story of King Cyrus—Cyrus the Great, as the Persians call him. Such was Jefferson's admiration for this work that Jefferson wrote to his own grandson:

I would advise you, go first through the Cyropedia, and then read Herodotus and Thucydides.

Unfortunately, contrary to the traditions of the Cyrus Cylinder, the Iranian Government continues to engage in widespread human rights abuses. While the Cyrus Cylinder highlighted peace and acceptance as its ideals, the current regime in Iran has steadily increased its discriminatory practices and repression of the country's ethnic and religious minority populations—from Azerbaijanis to Baluchis, to Kurds and Arabs, to the Baha'is and Christians and Zoroastrians. Iranian authorities routinely deny its citizens the most basic human rights through harassment, intimidation, detention, and violence.

And for those minorities who have served in the prison system in Iran, they can tell you the stories of how horrible that violence can be. Actions that often violate Iran's own international obligations routinely occur there in that country, and I hope that the tour of the Cyrus Cylinder across the United States brings attention to the oppressiveness of the Iranian regime and serves as a symbol, a symbol that promotes human rights around the world, a symbol to remind people of what that culture once stood for under Cyrus the Great.

So, in 2013, on the occasion of the first-ever visit of the Cyrus Cylinder from the British Museum to the United States, and to the Getty Museum in Malibu from October 2 to December 2, we call attention to this important historical document for the example it set over two millennia ago.

MOURNING LOSS OF LIFE ON ASIANA FLIGHT 214

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) for 1 minute.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend as the Nation celebrated the Fourth of July, the birth of our country, tragedy struck. As all the world knows, a plane crash landed at the San Francisco airport, something very uncommon, but something that shared a common interest.

□ 1030

Our thoughts and prayers today rest with the passengers and the crew who were on board Asiana Airlines Flight 214, with the families of the victims of the horrific tragedy, the men and women recovering in hospitals across the Bay Area.

Our prayers are with the families of the two young girls, Ye Mengyuan and Wang Linjia, who lost their lives on Saturday. Indeed, we know that no words can console their loved ones today. All of San Francisco shares in their shock and grief. We will do everything we can do to care for those affected and their families.

The sudden crash shook the grounds of San Francisco International Airport, testing the training, strength and courage of those who would be the first on the scene.

As a Representative of San Francisco in the Congress, a privilege I share with Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER—the airport is actually in Congresswoman SPEIER's district—we will join together to observe and mourn the losses tomorrow when some more of our Members are here, back from the Arizona tragedy.

But for now, I wanted not another day to go by before commending the crew. They performed so heroically. The crew was so magnificent, and a reminder to us that the first responsibility of the crew is safety, that they are trained for it, and they performed magnificently. And the flight attendant, the lead flight attendant was the last person to leave the plane, not until everyone else was off.

First responders responded in characteristic fashion, with bravery, with valor, without regard for their own safety, with their sights set only on the safety of others. Their stories are so remarkable. Their stories are so remarkable about what they saw on the plane and how people responded.

And it was also the coolness and the cooperation, not only of the crew, but of many of the passengers, that enabled so many people to be saved. Seeing the sight of the plane and the crash, it was almost miraculous to think that so many people would survive the crash.

There was only minutes to react, and within minutes, the flight crew and the San Francisco and San Mateo police officers and fire departments were climbing up the rescue chutes, running through smoke-filled aisles and leading passengers out to safety.

Within minutes, Fire Rescue Captain Tony Molloy and his team had set up a triage-and-treatment area so they could immediately evacuate the most severely injured.

Within minutes, the air traffic controllers and airport staff were effectively diverting traffic and travelers to secure the area.

Within minutes, local hospital staff had prepared, made ready and visited to provide the injured with the necessary care and support.